GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:252
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2002
CONVERSION OF VIKRANT INTO MUSEUM
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether final decision regarding conversion of various Warships particularly Vikrant into a permanent museum has been taken;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra has been pursuing this proposal with his Ministry since long;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the contribution proposed to be made by the Union Government; and

(e) the reasons for delay in conversion of Vikrant into a permanent museum?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 252 FOR 5.12.2002

No final decision regarding the conversion of INS Vikrant into permanent Museum has so far been taken.INS Vikrant which was commissioned on 16th February, 1961 was de-commissioned on 31st January 1997. In June 1997, the Government of Maharashtra proposed to Ministry of Defence that they were willing to take over Vikrant for conversion into a maritime Museum.Hon`ble Raksha Mantri approved the transfer of Vikrant to the Government of Maharashtra free of cost in October 1998.The scrap value of ship, estimated at Rs. 18 crores, was also condoned. In July, 1999 Government of Maharashtra paid Rs. 5 crores for essential maintenance prior to transfer.

Government of Maharashtra then got a project report prepared and also sought to find a commercial partner for conversion of Vikrant into a maritime museum cum helipad cum convention centre at a cost of Rs. 124 crores. However, no further progress has been made by the Government of Maharashtra in this regard. Meanwhile, on 30th November, 2001, the Indian Navy converted certain parts of the ship into a museum and the ship was towed to the Naval Anchorage, Mumbai and opened to the public. A large number of visitors have since visited INS Vikrant.